

XIX.—*Description of a new Species of Helicidæ from New Zealand.* By EDGAR A. SMITH.

IN 'The Zoologist' for the year 1879, on page 61, are published a few observations upon a specimen of this species, which I then conjectured to be merely an abnormal growth of *Paryphanta Hochstetteri*. Lately, however, through the liberality of Mr. Justice Gillies of Auckland, New Zealand, the British Museum has become possessed of a second example of this interesting shell. The very remarkable characteristic, the flexibility of its substance, I formerly considered might have been produced by its having been reared in some situation where the creature was unable to procure sufficient carbonate of lime for the production of an internal shelly lining. Mr. Gillies, however, informs me that this pliability of structure is a constant feature in all the specimens he has seen, and that they never attain to the size of the adult *P. Hochstetteri*. Such being the case, and taking into consideration other differences of form and sculpture, I now feel no hesitation in describing this as a new and very interesting species.

Helix (Paryphanta) Gilliesii.

Shell umbilicated, compressed, pliable, smooth and rather glossy, exhibiting lines of growth and obsolete spiral striation upon the upper surface; colour dark chestnut, varied with spiral yellowish lines of different widths and number in different specimens. Spire depressed, probably not prominent at the apex, which is crushed into the cavity of the penultimate whorl in the two specimens before me. Whorls about five or six, very slightly convex, the last large, obtusely keeled in the crushed state of the dead shell, but rounded when inflated, not united at the suture to the previous volution for some distance from the aperture; the latter is oblique, brown within, and without a shelly lining. Peristome thin, the upper margin (viewed laterally) oblique, arcuate, not united to the columellar extremity by the slightest vestige of a callosity.

Greatest diameter 35 millims., smallest 28 millims. Height of crushed specimen about 7 millims., of one stuffed out with wool about 14 millims.

Hab. Whakamarama range of mountains, north-west of Nelson.

All the specimens known to Mr. Gillies have been found in a crushed condition, and containing more or less dried mud.



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